

**TOWN OF ALTON
DELIBERATIVE SESSION
FEBRUARY 4, 2009
PROSPECT MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL**

Mark Northridge called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

E. Russell Bailey introduced the members attending representing the Town of Alton:

Krista Argiropolis, Recording Secretary
Lisa Noyes, Town Clerk
E. Russell Bailey, Town Administrator
James Sessler, Attorney
Steve McMahon, Board of Selectmen
Pat Fuller, Board of Selectmen
Peter Bolster, Board of Selectmen

Steve Miller introduced the members attending representing the Alton Budget Committee:

Greg Fuller
Karen Painter
Elizabeth Dominick
Richard MacDonald
Steve Miller, Chairman

Steve McMahon announced there had recently been a resignation from the Board of Selectmen and they would like to appoint someone to the position for the remainder of the term. The term is March 2009 to March 2010. He requested that anyone interested in the position should let Pat Rockwood know by Monday, February 10 at 4:30 PM.

Steve Miller stated the Budget Committee would like to thank the moderator, town administrator, Board of Selectmen and the Department Directors. He noted that about \$20,000 in reductions had been recommended by the Committee and that \$108,000.00 had been removed from the budget that had been presented. He reported that the Committee was not recommending two Warrant articles that were totaling \$45,000.00. He felt the town was well managed and felt the budget process had been successful.

Mark Northridge read the Moderator's Rules.

Warrant articles 1 through 11 are not fiscal articles and are not discussed.

WARRANT ARTICLES

2009 Deliberative Meeting and Town Elections

You are hereby notified to meet at the Prospect Mountain High School on Wednesday the Fourth (4th) day of February in the year Two Thousand and Nine (2009), beginning at seven (7:00) o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of deliberating upon the following Warrant Articles and the Town elections to approve the warrant articles by ballot vote which will be held on March 10, 2009 at the Prospect Mountain High School from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm:

[Articles 1 through 11 had no motions or discussion.]

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Million Nine Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Dollars (\$1,999,000.00)** for the construction and improvements on the Town Hall, Senior Center, Central Fire Station and Police Station, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,999,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore, to authorize that proceeds from the sale of town property be used to offset the construction cost and/or bond payment. [Recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the budget Committee (7-0)](3/5 ballot vote required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 12 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. Jonathan Hale spoke about the four projects that he was hired to create schematic designs for: Town Hall, Police Station, Central Fire Station (on Route 140), and the Alton Senior Center.

Loring Carr asked about combining the Police Department and the Fire Department as one building and asked why the Selectmen had not decided to have the two departments in one facility. Pat Fuller explained there had been a Safety Facility Committee in 2003 that had decided that it would not be best because of cost and other findings of the Committee but that the Committee had recommended improvements to the two buildings.

Harold Bothwick spoke about handicap accessibility to the entrance of the Town Hall and asked if the renovated entrance proposed would be compliant with the laws. Pat Fuller stated that the front of the door would not come out any further. Jonathan Hale explained that the door would swing out and would be compliant.

Dave St. Cyr asked if the patio at the Senior Center would be affected by the renovation because there had been an Eagle Scout project done to complete the patio. Jonathan Hale assured Dave St. Cyr that the patio would not be affected.

E. Russell Bailey explained that if this was approved by voters in March 2009 that it would go out to bid in the summer. Bids would be completed in August/September, then reviewed and approved by the Selectmen. He stated they would have a firm number in September/October and it would be taken to Bond Bank. The first payment to the Bond would be in Spring/Summer 2010 and would be a payment on the interest only. The first payment would be in January 2011. He stated that the impact would not be on the 2010 tax rate.

E. Russell Bailey reported that there had been about \$75,000.00 approved and raised each year with two Capital Reserve funds that had been approved each year. He reported on the proposed Bond costs at 5.5% rate and 5% rate. The estimated average net yearly tax impact would be \$0.05-0.06.

Richard MacDonald asked if the cost included any upgrades to windows, wiring or other issues at the Town Hall and E. Russell Bailey reported that there were plans for upgrade to the windows and other things.

Bob Longabaugh asked if the Police Captain would be allowed to bid, as he owned a construction company. E. Russell Bailey responded that if it was decided by legal council that it was not a conflict, then it would be allowed.

Richard MacDonald spoke about possibly borrowing the money from Capital Reserves vs. paying on the bond and paying for interest and fees. E. Russell Bailey responded that it would be decided by the

Board of Selectmen and discussed some of the possible scenarios that could be considered in the financing of the project. Also, the Capital Reserve Fund balance was about \$270,000.00.

Ruth Messier asked if there were any estimates on the proposed property sales. E. Russell Bailey responded that the lots were as low as \$8,000.00 and that there were several properties. The final list has to be reviewed and approved by the Conservation Committee and the Planning Board.

Dave St. Cyr asked why the Selectmen were going for a 20-year bond and felt they would be paying double for the projects because of the costs. E. Russell Bailey stated that it would be a smaller impact spread over 20 years. Peter Bolster spoke about the bond that was done for the high school and stated that the bond for 20-years would make it so that the people moving into town would also be paying for the buildings. Dave St. Cyr felt that this was related to improvements and felt that there would be more money needed for future improvements.

Laurie Boyce asked about the timing of the projects. E. Russell Bailey stated they would go out to bid at the same time but that they would be done over different times. She asked how long the Police Department would take and E. Russell Bailey responded it would take about one year.

Reuben Wentworth spoke about his concerns with the economy and stated he did not agree with the budget this year and especially the projects. He spoke about the decrease in revenues for the state and the Town of Alton. He felt that many folks could not afford an increase on their taxes and felt this was not an appropriate time for these projects. He stated that his vote this year would be for a default budget.

Loring Carr made an amendment to the article that read:

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Million Nine Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Dollars (\$1,999,000.00)** for the construction and improvements on the Town Hall, Senior Center, Central Fire Station and Police Station, and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$1,999,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; furthermore, to authorize that proceeds from the sale of town property *authorized by a vote of the town* be used to offset the construction cost and/or bond payment.

[Recorder's Note: Amendment shown in bold, italic font.]

The amendment was seconded by Richard MacDonald.

E. Russell Bailey stated that it was his understanding that the land had to be sold off this year and that they could not move forward with the construction project until the land was sold.

Loring Carr stated that the information about the sale of the pieces of property should be made known to the voters. He felt that since something like this was done last year with Shibley's At The Pier, that it should be done in a similar fashion.

Steve Miller asked for Attorney Sessler to explain exactly what that reading meant. Jim Sessler explained there were two ways to look at the sales of the property and that the Selectmen could sell the property according to the by-laws of the town. He asked Loring Carr what his intent was in making this amendment. Loring Carr responded that he did not agree with the Selectmen selling off the property and felt that it should be known about by the voters. Jim Sessler felt that the amendment

would “kill the bond” and would make the process long. There was discussion about issues with selling property in the past.

Dave St. Cyr asked if there was a list of the properties available. E. Russell Bailey explained that there is a tentative list of properties that will be sold off and there are only about seven or eight pieces of property. Dave St. Cyr felt that the list should be disclosed.

Bob Longabaugh asked if the deliberative session and voting would be done as one meeting or several. E. Russell Bailey responded that it would be one meeting with the voting done separately.

Ruth Messier asked if the amended article passed, if it would be treated as the SB-2 process and E. Russell Bailey responded that it would be done with a deliberative session and then voting, as required by SB-2.

Greg Fuller stated he did not see how the bond would not happen with the amendment proposed by Loring Carr. Jim Sessler responded that the intent of the amendment would make it so that the bond council may not grant the bond. Greg Fuller suggested placing the word “may” in as this might be beneficial. Jim Sessler stated he could not interpret what the bond council would decide.

Steve Miller felt that this was a bad real estate market and that selling the property right now was not in the best interest of the town. Peter Bolster agreed that this was not a good time to sell property and then noted that with this amendment that was being proposed that there might be several meetings because of the sale of three or four of the properties at once. He stated that the sooner they could get these properties sold that they could get the best price on a bond and bids. Pat Fuller stated that they could not get a special election “at the drop of a hat” but that it had to be special circumstances. She spoke about the possibility of putting local contractors to work.

Ruth Messier felt that the amendment would not affect the construction cost of the bond payment. She asked why the sale of the properties could not be put in a March ballot. She stated she did not understand how it was going to hold up construction.

Laurie Boyce asked about the size of the properties. E. Russell Bailey stated that some of the lots would be considered to be grandfathered.

Jeffrey St. Cyr felt there may be some conflicts to selling the pieces of property and suggested removing all references to the selling of land. He asked if this could be an option. Jim Sessler stated that it could be removed from the Warrant article and the problem would be avoided. Jeffrey St. Cyr suggested having the sale of the land as a separate Warrant article next year. Steve McMahon stated that the suggestion was the next best scenario. There was discussion about the bond pending on the sale of the property.

Richard MacDonald spoke about selling the property and where the money would go after the sale. E. Russell Bailey stated that the revenue would go in the General Fund. Peter Bolster asked if the properties could be bundled as one sale price next year.

Loring Carr withdrew his amendment and Richard MacDonald withdrew his second.

Loring Carr amended Article 12 to read:

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Million Nine Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand Dollars (\$1,999,000.00)** for the construction and improvements on the Town Hall, Senior Center, Central Fire Station and Police Station, and to authorize the issuance of

not more than \$1,999,000.00 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon; ~~furthermore, to authorize that proceeds from the sale of town property be used to offset the construction cost and/or bond payment.~~

[Recorder's Note: Amendment shown with double-strike through font.]

Richard MacDonald seconded the motion.

Steve McMahon spoke in favor of the amendment.

The amendment passed by favorable vote.

Harold Bothwick agreed that this was difficult economic times. He spoke about the property that the school is proposing to buy and felt that the Twombly property on Depot Street would be a better location for the Police Department and Fire Department. He spoke about borrowing the money from the town at 0% interest rate. He felt that the interest rates would decline over the next year.

Reuben Wentworth asked what the maintenance costs would be on the four projects. E. Russell Bailey spoke about some of the cost savings that would be utilized in the project.

Dave Hussey asked if there were any State or Federal grants available to the town for this. E. Russell Bailey reported that there were some grants available but most were matching grants. Dave Hussey asked why the entrance to the Town Hall was being changed. E. Russell Bailey responded that there was tremendous heat loss when the door was opened and the changes would stop that.

Chris Consentino felt the economy was bad and sympathized with the business owners. She felt that the infrastructure needed attention and would create jobs. She spoke about issues with some of the buildings, such as the Fire Department.

Thad Guildbrandsen asked about the logic for lumping all these projects together vs. having them as individual projects. He asked if there was a critical need to make changes to the Police Department and Fire Station. Pat Fuller responded that by lumping the projects altogether, they could go for a bond and spoke about the importance of keeping the impact as low as possible on the tax payers.

Ryan Heath, Police Captain, spoke about the things that needed immediate attention at the Police Station. He spoke about storage issues in the station and reported that one of the holding cells was now being used as an evidence room. He stated there was a storage unit rental now for found items and noted there was a cost incurred. He spoke about having a combined Police and Fire Department and reported that the old buildings had value. He felt that the renovations would increase the life of the buildings.

Reuben Wentworth asked about the number of holding cells and asked if they were planned for in the future. Ryan Heath stated that there were enough holding cells for their needs and referred to the diagram that was displayed.

Scott Williams, Fire Chief, spoke about the changes proposed to the Central Fire Department and the history of some of the renovations that had been done to the building in the past. He spoke about the need for storage and felt there could be faster response.

Pat Fuller announced that Scott Williams had been promoted to Fire Chief and that Ed Consentino had been promoted to Fire Captain/Inspector.

Steve Miller advised against taking a significant amount of money from surplus and felt it would cause problems with the town's credit rating. He spoke about problems that could be incurred if there was an emergency and felt that FEMA funds were not always available.

Richard MacDonald asked about upgrades/renovations to be done to the Town Hall.

Peter Bolster spoke about the timing of the article and called the question. Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict Article 12 for further consideration and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by a favorable vote.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Four Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$34,500.00)** for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new police patrol vehicle SUV 4WD which will replace an existing vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (7-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Pat Fuller motioned to move Article 13 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion.

Ryan Heath, Police Captain, spoke for the article and noted this was a flat request from the previous year.

Ruth Messier asked about the mileage on the current vehicle, if it was an SUV, and why it was an SUV being requested. Ryan Heath responded that the current vehicle had over 120,000 miles on it. They are replacing a Crown Victoria. They have seven patrol vehicles, one animal control officer van, four vehicles with over 100,000 miles on them. He spoke about the benefits of having an SUV for safety and storage and noted that there was a \$1,600.00 difference in cost and only one MPG more for the SUV vs. the Crown Victoria. The old vehicle will be auctioned or sold.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict Article 13 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the Landfill Closure Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. These funds are being used to deal with the contamination at the landfill and to meet the state regulatory requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Steve McMahon moved Article 14 and Pat Fuller seconded the motion.

E. Russell Bailey spoke for the article and reported on the history of the contamination, monitoring wells, and other costs incurred with the ground water contamination.

Steve McMahon motioned to restrict Article 14 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing and installing a generator at the Town Hall for operating the emergency operations center, communications equipment and computer network during emergencies and allow for operation of the town hall during outages. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and Budget Committee (6-0,1)] (A majority vote is required)

Pat Fuller moved the article and Steve McMahon seconded the motion.

Pat Fuller spoke for the article. She reported that the Town Administrator is the Emergency Manager for the town and that the central emergency hub was in the Town Hall. She stated it was important to be able to run communications from the Town Hall. She spoke about some of the emergencies, such as tornadoes and floods that the town has experienced over the past couple of years.

Laurie Boyce asked where the generator would be located. E. Russell Bailey stated that it could go in the garage or behind the building and that they are looking at options.

Dave St. Cyr asked if this was a “turn key” operation. E. Russell Bailey confirmed that the cost includes the generator, installation, and set up.

Dave Hussey asked if there would be UPS backup for voice and data. E. Russell Bailey responded that they have some of that already but this would help to facilitate this. Peter Bolster spoke about the benefits of having the generator during an emergency and felt it could make for more shelter space in case of an emergency.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict article 15 for further consideration and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the Solid Waste Equipment Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 16 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion.

E. Russell Bailey stated that this was requested by the Director of the Solid Waste Facility and that it was for equipment, such as a bailer, and spoke about some of the costs and equipment involved with recycling.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict the article for further consideration and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)** to be added to the Building and Site Improvements Capital Reserve Fund for the transfer station which also includes the EPA storm water management implementation requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-3)] (A majority vote is required)

E. Russell Bailey spoke about the request and some of the improvements that are planned to be made, such as with the recycling of shingles and other roofing materials.

Steve Miller spoke about the split vote that the Budget Committee made and stated that the Selectmen did not present a case where this was a critical need.

Steve Miller moved the following amendment:

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **zero dollars** ~~Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)~~ to be added to the Building and Site Improvements Capital Reserve Fund for the transfer station which also includes the EPA storm water management implementation requirements. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and not recommended by the Budget Committee (3-3)] (A majority vote is required)

[Recorder's Note: Amendment shown in bold, italic font and double-strike through font.]

Greg Fuller seconded the amendment.

Jeffrey St. Cyr asked what the views of the selectmen were for this fund. Pat Fuller stated there was a plan for this and there was money raised each year. She stated that they raised some money each year for this and that there would be results that the Committee would be able to see that the town could benefit from. Peter Bolster noted that there was a plan and spoke about some of the improvements. Jeffrey St. Cyr felt that the amendment should have been made from the floor of the meeting rather than from the Budget Committee's chair.

Harold Bothwick felt that the article should be removed because leaving it on the Warrant would be a waste of voters' time. Jim Sessler responded that it could not be removed from the Warrant.

Loring Carr asked if the town would be in any violation of wastewater management. E. Russell Bailey felt that the management would be compliant but that there could be cuts in other places that were key.

Steve Miller stated that this was something that may not be funded this year but that it could be met next year or when the economy improved.

Pat Fuller stated there was an issue with this amendment because the EPA could interpret the act as meaning that they were not putting in a good faith effort.

Ruth Messier asked if they had a total for the projects. E. Russell Bailey responded that the total project was about \$2,000,000.00 and spoke about some of the laws and criteria that the waste management department would need to make.

The moderator called the vote. The motion failed.

There was no discussion of the article.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict the article for further consideration and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be added to the Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund for the maintenance and installation of sidewalks. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and by the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved the article and Steve McMahon seconded the motion.

E. Russell Bailey spoke for the article and discussed some of the issues with the sidewalks in town. He discussed some of the areas of need and safety issues.

Ruth Messier asked if there were other sidewalk trust funds. E. Russell Bailey reported there were two other trust funds and that eventually they would be combined. Peter Bolster spoke about the plans that the NH DOT has for the intersection of Route 28 where a round-a-bout was proposed. He reported that they are planning to put in sidewalks in that area.

Bob Longabaugh asked for clarification for the timeline for this project. Peter Bolster reported that the area around Route 28 would be focused on and would be done this summer, most likely.

Dave St. Cyr asked if there was a list of the balances for the Capital Reserves and other accounts that the town had and stated he was bothered by the lack of information. E. Russell Bailey responded that the information would be in the town report but there were \$14,988.00 in the two Capital Reserves.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict article 18 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the municipality will vote to change the purpose of an existing Beach Capital Reserve Fund to the Recreation Facility Capital Reserve Fund and to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the capital reserve fund. (A 2/3 majority vote is required)

Pat Fuller moved Article 19 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

Peter Bolster spoke for the article and stated that since the Beach Committee found it difficult to purchase property at a fair price that it was felt the money should be used for maintenance. Richard MacDonald asked if this could be used for Jones Field on Letter S Road. Peter Bolster stated that it could be used for that.

Ruth Messier stated that there was a selectman speaking for the article and felt that although Peter Bolster was saying "we" that he might not be on the Board of Selectmen in years later.

Harold Bothwick asked how much money was in this fund and felt the information should be in the Warrant article. E. Russell Bailey stated that there was \$25,000 in the fund now but the Warrant was requesting to change the use of the money, which would include maintenance.

Loring Carr asked if there would be a conflict with Warrant article 19 and petition Warrant article 38. James Sessler stated that there could be some confusion with the names of the two accounts. Peter Bolster felt that article 38 was more restrictive and E. Russell Bailey responded that it did not restrict the article. Loring Carr spoke about his concerns about the possible conflict. E. Russell Bailey stated that two-third votes was needed to approve the article. P. Bolster felt that the article could be expanding on Warrant article 19.

Steve Miller felt it was important that the intent of the two Warrant articles be clear to the voters. James Sessler responded that he did not know the intent of the drafters of article 38 and to make it compatible with Warrant article 19 that the names of the two funds would need to be made the same. There was discussion about possibly amending article 38.

Dave St. Cyr asked if there was a beach capital reserve fund and if there was a recreational capital reserve fund. Pat Fuller responded that there was a beach capital reserve fund and that this article would change the name and use of the existing fund. Peter Bolster explained that this was on the Warrant last year but failed. James Sessler responded that changes in language changed frequently and this would simply change the use of the fund. Dave St. Cyr felt that the language was misleading.

Harold Bothwick felt that the Selectmen should not recommend this article because it was confusing to the voters. He felt that Warrant article 38 should be left because it could not be changed. James Sessler noted that petition Warrant articles could be changed.

Ruth Messier suggested placing some referral to the petition Warrant article 38 in the wording of article 19. There was discussion about the possible changes.

Mark DiVito stated that if article 38 and this article fails, that article 38 will not mean anything.

Loring Carr motioned to amend Warrant article 19:

ARTICLE 19: To see if the municipality will vote to **not** change the purpose of an existing Beach Capital Reserve Fund to the Recreation Facility Capital Reserve Fund and to appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the capital reserve fund. (A 2/3 majority vote is required)

[Recorders Note: Amendment shown in bold, italic font.]

Richard MacDonald seconded the motion.

The vote was called and 18 voted for the amendment and 21 voted against the amendment. The amendment failed.

Pat Fuller moved the question and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict the article 19 for further consideration and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling **Six Million One Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars (\$6,138,838.00)**. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Six Million Forty Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Nine Dollars (\$6,043,629.00), which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Alton or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed. (A majority vote is required)

Steve Miller moved Article 20 and Elizabeth Dominick seconded the motion.

Steve Miller reported on the process the Budget Committee used for the review of the budget. He felt that a lot of fat was trimmed from the budget by the Selectmen and that by the time the Budget Committee reviewed and made recommendations on the budget that it was a good budget. He stated it was recommended by the Budget Committee.

Ruth Messier asked for the votes of the Selectmen and the Budget Committees. E. Russell Bailey responded that per the DRA that the votes were not printed on the article. Steve Miller reported that there were two no votes (Steve Miller, Greg Fuller) and three yes votes (Elizabeth Dominick, Stephan McMahon, Richard MacDonald). Pat Fuller reported that the Selectmen did not take a vote but that they were unanimous in their vote to approve their own budget.

Richard MacDonald motioned to restrict Article 20 for further consideration and S. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Dollars (\$139,000.00)** and to authorize the withdrawal of the \$139,000.00 from the Ambulance Operation Fund as previously established under RSA 31: 95c for the purpose of the ambulance lease payment, ambulance personnel wages, ambulance supplies, training, and vehicle fuel/maintenance. This appropriation is covered by the revenue from the ambulance insurance payments and there will be no funds raised from general taxation. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Pat Fuller moved Article 21 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion.

Scott Williams, Fire Chief reported this was the final payment on the lease vehicle. He reported on the condition of the vehicle and noted that it brought in revenue.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict Article 21 for further consideration and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Fifty Thousand Four Hundred Twenty One Dollars (\$50,421.00)** for the lease payment on the Fire Rescue Vehicle. The sum of \$50,421.00 to come from fund balance (surplus) and no funds to be raised from general taxation. This is the fifth and final payment on the lease/purchase of a five-year agreement, which was approved in the 2004 Town Meeting and the vehicle was received in 2005. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Pat Fuller moved Article 22 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion.

Scott Williams, Fire Chief, spoke for the article.

Steve McMahon motioned to restrict Article 22 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Thirty Six Thousand Dollars (\$36,000.00)** for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a Fire SUV Command vehicle to replace the existing 1998 SUV vehicle. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2010. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (7-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Steve McMahon moved Article 23 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

Scott Williams spoke for the article.

Dave St. Cyr asked if the old vehicle would go to another department and E. Russell Bailey reported the vehicle was in bad repair and had been sold already. It would not be going to another department.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict Article 23 for further consideration and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00)** to be added to the Highway Reconstruction Capital Reserve Fund, as previously established. Said amount is partially offset by revenues from the Highway Block Grant Fund estimated to be \$167,712.09. This is an annual appropriation that provides for the reconstruction of existing roadways. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (6-0)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 24 and Pat Fuller seconded the motion.

Ken Roberts, Highway Agent, spoke for the Article. He discussed some of the projects that the Highway Department will be doing this year and some of the setbacks, such as the tornado and flood. He spoke about the \$121,000 Mitigation Grant and some other areas of revenue that were being explored for assisting the Highway Department in their funding.

Peter Bolster spoke about some of the pending bills in the NH House of Representatives that will help with funding of road repairs.

Bob Longabaugh asked if the increase would help them to get ahead. Ken Roberts responded that the funds would help them to get there and they felt this would help them to reach some of their project goals last year.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict Article 24 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Six Dollars (\$8,996.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Community Action Program which provides supplemental food, fuel, utility, transportation, meals on wheels, weatherization assistance, Women, Infants and Children food assistance program (WIC). This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Steve McMahon moved Article 25 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

E. Russell Bailey motioned to restrict Article 25 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Eleven Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Four Dollars (\$11,654.00)** for the purpose of supporting the VNA Hospice which is a non-profit agency that provides health care, hospice care and maternal child health services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Steve McMahon moved Article 26 and Pat Fuller seconded the motion.

Sylvia Countway reported that this request was \$500.00 less than the previous year and spoke about some of the services that the VNA Hospice provided.

Dave St. Cyr asked why the fourteen articles requesting money for organizations could not be included in one article. Steve McMahon stated that it was requested by a Selectman in the past because some voters may not support some of the organizations. Steve Miller spoke about the review of the requests of the various charities and felt that listing them separately made sense.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict Article 26 for further consideration and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand Dollars (\$5000.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Youth Services Bureau, which provides alternatives to court involvement for juvenile offenders, parent/child mediation, intervention and education programs. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and not recommended by the Budget Committee (4-2)] (A majority vote is required)

Pat Fuller moved Article 27 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

Peter Bolster spoke for the article and the way the program assists juveniles by teaching prevention.

Steve Miller reported this was the only charitable organization not supported by the Budget Committee. He reported that there were 22 referrals from the Lakes Region and only 2 from Alton. He stated that the services provided by this organization were replicated all over the state. He reported that administrative costs were above 30% and felt this was an exorbitant amount of money.

Lisa _____ from Youth Services Bureau spoke about the program available and the cost of prevention vs. court costs. She felt that the service provided was a good value.

Ruth Messier stated she would not vote for this and reported that the first year that Youth Services came to the Budget Committee that they requested \$100,000.00 and reported it was for administrative costs. She asked if they got money from the county and Peter Bolster reported that they did not get money from the county.

Ryan Heath, Police Captain, spoke about the program and juvenile crimes. He spoke about the resources available to the police department and noted that there were not a lot of referrals. He reported there were some restrictions to the program that prevented them from making referrals. He spoke about the benefits of the program.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict Article 27 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$5,100.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Community Health and Hospice, which provides visiting nurse, homemaker and hospice services to residents. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 28 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion.

Alice Calvert spoke for the article.

Richard MacDonald asked why December 31, 2009 was used in the articles and E. Russell Bailey responded that it was done to ensure the organizations pull their money the year it is approved.

Steve Miller reviewed the number of service calls and stated he would support this article.

Steve McMahon motioned to restrict Article 28 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Three Dollars (\$2,283.00)** for the purpose of supporting the American Red Cross which provide disaster relief, shelters, basic household necessities and counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Steve McMahon moved Article 29 and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Steve McMahon motioned to restrict Article 29 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Alton Community Services which provides a food pantry and assistance programs for fuel, prescriptions, utilities, housing in close coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 30 and Pat Fuller seconded the motion.

Peter Bolster spoke for the article and thanked the donors for their generous donations to the Alton Community Services.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict Article 30 for further consideration and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Hundred Sixty Three Dollars (\$163.00)** for the purpose of supporting the Medication Bridge Prescription Program which is a not for profit volunteer program that provides assistance to residents in need of prescriptions in coordination with the Alton Welfare Department. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 31 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict Article 31 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00)** for the purpose of supporting the New Beginnings which provides 24 hour crisis support for domestic/sexual assault victims, operate a shelter and provide counseling. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation is recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-2)] (A majority vote is required)

Steve McMahon moved Article 32 and Pat Fuller seconded the motion.

Ryan Heath spoke for the article and reported that they provide long-term services that the police department cannot provide.

Steve Miller reported that 23 Alton residents had used the services at \$180.00/night and felt the program was well worth supporting.

Steve McMahon motioned to restrict Article 32 for further consideration and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00)** for the purpose of supporting Genesis which provides mental health care to area residents, services for children, elders, along with other emergency services. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen(5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-2)] (A majority vote is required)

Pat Fuller moved Article 33 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

Peter Bolster spoke for the article and discussed the services provided by Genesis.

Ruth Messier spoke about her support for the program and noted that there might be parts of the program closing. Peter Bolster spoke about the support that the county will not be giving to Genesis any more.

Ryan Heath spoke about the role of the police department with involuntary emergency admission (IEA) and the benefits of the evaluation being done in a criminal situation.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict Article 33 for further consideration and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting Caregivers Transportation which provides free transportation to handicapped, elderly and other residents needing assistance with all these services provided by volunteers. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 34 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion.

MaryBee Longabaugh spoke for the article and reported that this is for a volunteer service that is provided. The money is used for phone costs and sometimes for gas money, if needed. The service is provided for Alton community members.

Steve McMahon motioned to restrict Article 34 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** for the purpose of supporting CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) which provides advocacy for abused and neglected children. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-2)] (A majority vote is required)

Steve McMahon moved Article 35 and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict Article 35 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00)** for the purpose of supporting Appalachian Mountain Teen Project. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7VI and will not lapse until completed or by December 31st 2009. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (5-1)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 36 and Steve McMahon seconded the motion.

Peter Bolster spoke for the article and stated he thought the program was offered through the school. Jeffrey St. Cyr stated that there are students who work in the program and that councilors work with the students. Steve Miller reported on the organization's services performed last year and reported that 13% was used for administrative costs.

Richard MacDonald motioned to restrict Article 36 for further consideration and Steve McMahon seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00)** to be placed in the Benefit Pay Expendable Trust Fund, as previously established. Said funds are recommended by the Town Auditors to be used to pay for benefits accrued by Town Employees and redeemed when they leave employment with the Town of Alton, in accordance with the Town Personnel Policy. [Appropriation recommended by the Selectmen (5-0) and the Budget Committee (4-2)] (A majority vote is required)

Peter Bolster moved Article 37 and Pat Fuller seconded the motion.

E. Russell Bailey spoke for the article.

Dave St. Cyr asked why this could not have been in the operating budget. E. Russell Bailey responded that it was a Warrant article per recommendations of the auditor.

Steve McMahon motioned to restrict Article 37 for further consideration and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 38: We the undersigned, being voters in the Town of Alton hereby petition the Board of Selectmen of said town to place the following article on the warrant for the 2009 annual meeting: “To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of an existing new Town Beach capital reserve by expanding its use to allow for maintenance of the existing Town Beach on Route 28A”. (2/3 vote required)

Steve McMahon moved Article 38 and Pat Fuller seconded the motion.

E. Russell Bailey reported that he had a note from a member of the Beach Committee about the article.

Laurie Boyce asked why a two-thirds vote was needed. E. Russell Bailey responded that it is required by statute to change the purpose of any capital reserve.

Pat Fuller moved the following amendment:

ARTICLE 38: We the undersigned, being voters in the Town of Alton hereby petition the Board of Selectmen of said town to place the following article on the warrant for the 2009 annual meeting: “To see if the Town *will expand the use of the Recreation Facility Capital Reserve Fund if enacted to allow for maintenance of the existing Town Beach on Route 28A.* ~~of the vote to change the purpose of an existing new Town Beach capital reserve by expanding its use to allow for maintenance of the existing Town Beach on Route 28A”~~ (2/3 vote required)

Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

Ruth Messier felt that a petition article should not be changed but felt that this change, in this case, would be beneficial.

Harold Bothwick felt that a petition article should not be changed and that since there was not anyone present to speak about the article that it should be left alone.

The amendment passed by favorable vote.

Pat Fuller motioned to restrict Article 38 for further consideration and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 39: We, the undersigned, being citizens of the Town of Alton, NH do petition a warrant article, for the purpose of repair and re-fit to the Alton Fire Dept. Fireboat (Eastern 27), in order to render this boat safe to use, and to provide more timely response to emergency incidents. Presently, this vessel is not equipped for safe travel. This boat has only a single engine, and is not stable or balanced when carrying a crew. Outfitting this boat with an Armstrong bracket and dual engines (with counter-rotating props) will stabilize and provide safety and improved performance. The present motor is only a 2-cycle, 10 yr old motor, and has given many, substantial problems. Making these repairs will extend the life of this boat, and make it safer for travel to emergency incidents. Thank you. The amount needed is \$28,900 (twenty-eight thousand, nine hundred dollars). [Appropriation not recommended by the Selectmen (3-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0,1)] (A majority vote is required)

(The purpose of this petition article is to raise and appropriate \$28,900.00 for the purpose of equipping the Fire Boat with two new dual engines)

Ed Consentino moved article 39 and Scott Williams seconded the motion.

Ed Consentino spoke for the article. He discussed some of the issues with the boat and noted that the boat was very unstable in rough waters. He spoke about the various ways that the changes to the boat will benefit the Fire Department.

Ryan Heath reported the Fire Department's boat had issues at the fireworks display at Alton Bay.

Chris Consentino reported on the work she had done to obtain signatures. She discussed some of the safety issues and conditions that the Fire Department has to answer calls.

Jeffrey St. Cyr asked if the funds would be expended to the Fire Department if the voters approved this article. Peter Bolster responded that the Selectmen felt they could wait for this article for another year but that there were others who wanted the changes/improvements done sooner.

Scott Williams spoke about the boat issues and the assessment done to the boat by a boat mechanic.

Harold Bothwick felt this was a safety issue that needed to be addressed now.

Dave St. Cyr felt it might be time to replace the boat and asked about the votes of the Selectmen and the Budget Committee, which both had voted a majority of "no" on the article. Ed Consentino reported that this was the third year of this request and they had been voted down in the past. Chris Consentino explained that the reason they presented this as a petition article was because it had been denied by the Selectmen for the past three years. There was discussion about the safety issues.

Michael Viscariello spoke about the issues with the boat and noted it was becoming progressively worse.

Scott Williams reported that what was presented to the Selectmen was different than what was in this petition article. He reported this request was for the critical needs.

Bob Longabaugh felt there were enough safety issues that the fire department should not be dealing with additional safety issues.

Dave St. Cyr spoke about the way the petition article had come up from the Fire Department.

Scott Williams spoke about the boat and felt it was a short money fix because \$185,000.00 boat could not be justified. He discussed the recommendations of Eastern Marina.

Chris Consentino spoke about how she wrote the article and obtained signatures.

Peter Bolster spoke about the decision of the Selectmen to not recommend this upgrade last year.

Loring Carr spoke about possible issues that the DRA could have with this Warrant article. E. Russell Bailey felt that the DRA would not have issues with the article.

Jeffrey St. Cyr felt that the votes of the Budget Committee and Selectmen could be amended so to help this article to pass.

Chris Consentino moved an amendment to article 39:

ARTICLE 39: We, the undersigned, being citizens of the Town of Alton, NH do petition a warrant article, **to see if the town will raise and appropriate \$29,000.00** for the purpose of repair and re-fit to the Alton Fire Dept. Fireboat (Eastern 27), in order to render this boat safe to use, and to provide

more timely response to emergency incidents. Presently, this vessel is not equipped for safe travel. This boat has only a single engine, and is not stable or balanced when carrying a crew. Outfitting this boat with an Armstrong bracket and dual engines (with counter-rotating props) will stabilize and provide safety and improved performance. The present motor is only a 2-cycle, 10 yr old motor, and has given many, substantial problems. Making these repairs will extend the life of this boat, and make it safer for travel to emergency incidents. Thank you. The amount needed is \$29,000 (twenty-nine thousand dollars). [Appropriation not recommended by the Selectmen (3-0) and the Budget Committee (4-0,1)] (A majority vote is required)

~~(The purpose of this petition article is to raise and appropriate \$28,900.00 for the purpose of equipping the Fire Boat with two new dual engines)~~

Ed Consentino seconded the amendment. The motion passed by favorable vote.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict Article 39 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 40: Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA72:69 for a property exemption on real property which is equipped with a woodheating energy system in use as the main source of heat in the home as per RSA 72:69 (which shall not include a fireplace, meaning a hearth, fire chamber or similarly prepared place with a chimney intended to be usable in an open configuration). The annual exemption shall be in an amount not to exceed 50% of the receipted cost of the system. (A majority vote is required)

Pat Fuller moved Article 40 and Peter Bolster seconded the motion.

E. Russell Bailey spoke for the article. He reported it was being presented per recommendation of the Town Assessor.

Peter Bolster motioned to restrict article 40 for further consideration and Pat Fuller seconded the motion. The motion passed by favorable vote.

ARTICLE 41: To hear any reports of any committee, board, trustees, commissions, officials, agents or concerned voters and to vote to accept the same. Furthermore, to conduct any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Loring Carr spoke about his concerns about the Planning Board articles and felt those articles (2-10) should have been presented to the voters for consideration. Peter Bolster noted that the Planning Board meetings were televised and that these articles were something they could get more information about. There was discussion about how this could be discussed and amended.

Scott Williams stated he agreed with Loring Carr and felt that voters should be informed.

Pat Fuller motioned to adjourn and Peter Bolster seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Argiropolis
Recorder